

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate comprising a support and a photosensitive layer containing a modified poly(vinyl alcohol) resin binder having a radical-polymerizable group and an acid group, and an infrared absorber.

14. (New) The negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate as claimed in claim 13, wherein the infrared absorber is a dye or pigment having an absorption maximum at a wavelength between 760 and 1200 nm.

15. (New) The negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate as claimed in claim 13, wherein the photosensitive layer further contains a heat-decomposable radical generator.

16. (New) The negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate as claimed in claim 15, wherein the heat-decomposable radical generator is an onium salt selected from the group consisting of an iodonium salt, diazonium salt and sulfonium salt.

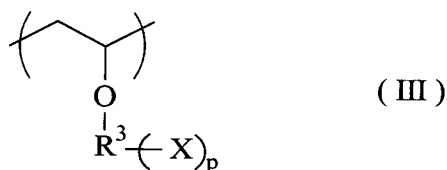
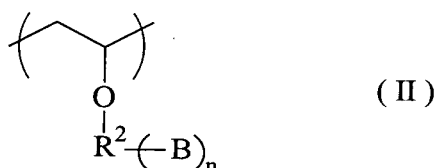
17. (New) The negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate as claimed in claim 13, wherein the modified poly(vinyl alcohol) resin binder having a radical-polymerizable group and an acid group contains a repeating unit having a radical polymerizable group represented by formula (I) and a repeating unit having an acid group represented by formula (III):



wherein A independently represents a radical-polymerizable group, X represents an acid group; R¹ and R³ each independently represents a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, and R¹ and R³ each has a valent of (m + 1) and (p + 1) respectively; and m and p each independently represents an integer of 1 to 5.

18. (New) The negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate as claimed in claim 13, wherein the modified poly(vinyl alcohol) resin binder having a radical-polymerizable group and an acid group contains a repeating unit having a radical-

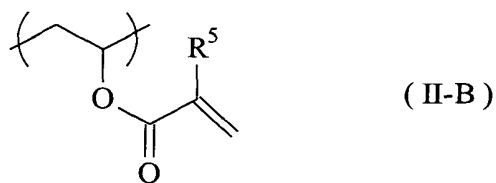
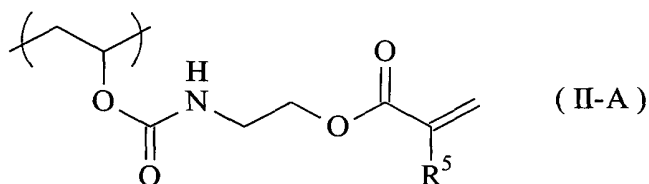
polymerizable group represented by formula (II) and a repeating unit having an acid group represented by formula (III):



wherein B independently represents a radical-polymerizable group, X represents an acid group; R² and R³ each independently represents a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, and R² and R³ each has a valent of (n+1) and (p+1) respectively; and n and p each independently represents an integer of 1 to 5.

19. (New) The negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate as claimed in claim 18, wherein, in the repeating unit containing a radical-polymerizable group represented by formula (II), B as the radical-polymerizable group is selected from the group consisting of a (meth)acrylamide group, an allyl group, a styrene structure, a vinyl ether structure and an acetylene structure.

20. (New) The negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate as claimed in claim 18 wherein the repeating unit having a radical-polymerizable group represented by formula (II) is represented by at least one of formula (II-A) and formula (II-B):

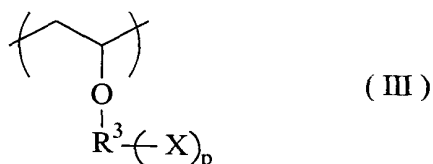
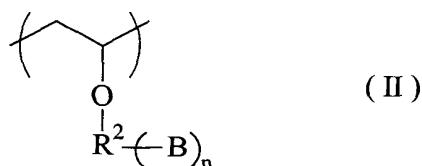


wherein R⁵ represents a hydrogen atom or methyl group.

21. (New) A method of plate-making a negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate, which comprises exposing the negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate as claimed in claim 13 to a laser light of 760 to 1200 nm wavelength, and thereafter developing the exposed plate.

22. (New) A negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate comprising a support and a photosensitive layer which contains: a modified poly(vinyl alcohol) resin binder having a radical-polymerizable group and an acid group; and a photopolymerization initiator, wherein the modified poly(vinyl alcohol) resin binder having a radical-

acid group contains a repeating unit having a radical-polymerizable group represented by formula (II) and a repeating unit having an acid group represented by formula (III)



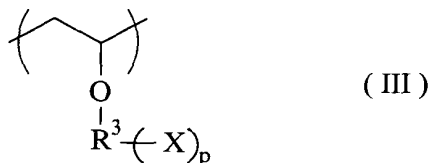
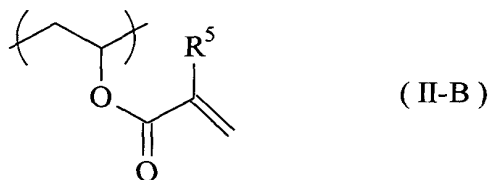
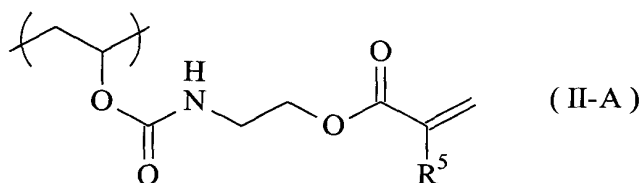
wherein B independently represents a radical-polymerizable group, X represents an acid group; R² and R³ each independently represents a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, and R² and R³ each has a valent of (n+1) and (p+1) respectively; and n and p each independently represents an integer of 1 to 5.

24. (New) The negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate as claimed in claim 23 wherein, in the repeating unit containing a radical-polymerizable group represented by formula (II), A as the radical-polymerizable group is selected from the group consisting of a (meth)acrylamide group, an allyl group, a styrene structure, a vinyl ether structure and an acetylene structure.

25. (New) A method of plate-making a negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate, which comprises exposing the negative photosensitive lithographic printing

plate as claimed in claim 23 to a laser light that has a wavelength longer than 400 nm and shorter than 760 nm and thereafter developing the exposed plate.

26. (New) A negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate comprising a support and a photosensitive layer which contains: a modified poly(vinyl alcohol) resin binder having a radical-polymerizable group and an acid group; and a photopolymerization initiator, wherein the modified poly(vinyl alcohol) resin binder having a radical-polymerizable group and an acid group includes a repeating unit having a radical-polymerizable group represented by at least one of formula (II-A) and formula (II-B) and a repeating unit having an acid group represented by formula (III):



wherein R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or methyl group, X represents an acid group, R^3 represents a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbon group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, and has a valent of $(p+1)$; and p represents an integer of 1 to 5.

27. (New) The negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate as claimed in claim 26, wherein the photopolymerization initiator is a titanocene compound.

28. (New) A method of plate-making a negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate, which comprises exposing the negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate as claimed in claim 26 to a laser light that has a wavelength longer than 400 nm and shorter than 760 nm and thereafter developing the exposed plate.